

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/647,464

Examiner

Tony H. Winner

Applicant(s)

FUJIOKA ET AL.

Art Unit

3611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an application filed 8/26/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/16/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Sean McGinn on 5/17/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

- a. In the specification page 25 lines 12-15 have been deleted,
- b. Page 2 line 1 and line 24, the "_" in the words "ste_ring" and "th_" have had an - e - placed in it,
- c. Page 4 line 1 and line 25, the "_" in the words "th_" and "ste_ring" have had an - e - placed in it,
- d. Page 15 line 24, the "_" in the word "s_ction" has had an - e - placed in it,
- e. Page 16 line 24, the "_" in the word "improv_s" has had an - e - placed in it,
- f. Page 20 line 25, the "_" in the word "det_rmination" has had an - e - placed in it,
- g. Page 23 line 1, the "_" in the word "valu_s" has had an - e - placed in it,
- h. Page 24 lines 9-10, replaces the words "tire 10 and the steering wheel 20" to - tire 20 and the steering wheel 10 --,
- i. Page 26 line 24, the "_" in the word "ste_ring" has had an - e - placed in it,

j. Page 27 line 25, the “_” in the word “wh_el” has had an – e – placed in it, two occurrences,

k. Page 28 line 24, the “_” in the words “ste_ring” and “whe_l” have had an – e – placed in it,

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-16 are allowed because the prior art neither shows nor teaches an electrical power steering apparatus, wherein the control section set the torque gain to be larger when the steering wheel of the on-center-region is in one position than when the steering wheel of the on-center-region is in the other position so as to provide improvement to steering feel and steerability and in combination with other elements recited.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony H. Winner whose telephone number is (703) 306-5957. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30am to 6:00pm.

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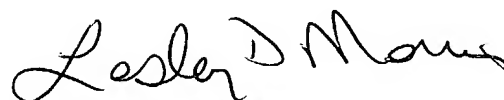
5. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris, can be reached on (703) 308-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.



**TONY WINNER
PATENT EXAMINER**

May 17, 2004



**LESLEY D. MORRIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600**